Question for written answer E-006583/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Climate policy

On 20 November 2020 the Commission published, in a draft delegated act, the 'world's first green list' for so-called sustainable economic activities for private investors.

Gas-fired power stations will in future be classified as sustainable investments or 'transitional' investments in the EU only if they do not exceed fixed emission limits. These are so low that compliance with them is currently impossible. To be deemed sustainable investments, gas-fired power stations must emit no more than the equivalent of 100 g of CO_2 per kilowatt hour. This limit would also prevent gas-fired power stations from being classified as a 'transitional' technology on the way to achieving climate neutrality.

If companies are not able to obtain the EU Ecolabel they will lose billions of euros, as private investors will transfer their capital to climate-friendly investments. According to the industry, this would hamper Poland's efforts to replace its coal-fired power stations with cleaner gas-fired ones, which on average emit only half the amount of CO_2. Even Frans Timmermans, Commissioner responsible for climate policy, says that gas is needed if we are to stop using coal[1].

1. How does the Commission justify the proposed emission limits for gas-fired power stations?

2. How does the Commission reconcile the proposed emission limits with the statements of the industry and of the Commissioner responsible for climate protection?

1 Frédéric Simon: 'Gas denied "transition" fuel status in draft EU green finance rules', Euractiv.com, 11 November 2020.